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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3303

February 23, 2007

The Honorable John Conyers
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Conyers:

I am writing to respectfully request that the Committee schedule a hearing concerning the seemingly wrongheaded prosecution of U.S. Border Patrol agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Alonso Compean. These agents entered federal prison on January 17, 2007 to begin serving sentences of 11 and 12 years respectively for wounding a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across the U.S. border in 2005.

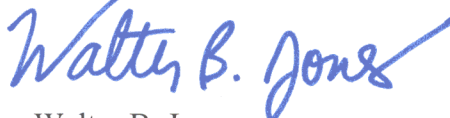
As you may know, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy has already given approval to Senator Dianne Feinstein, Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security, to conduct an investigation and hold hearings on this case. Because delaying justice in this case undermines the U.S. Border Patrol's critical mission of enforcing our immigration laws, I believe the House Judiciary Committee should investigate all matters involved in the prosecution and sentencing of these two men.

Over the past six months, countless American citizens and dozens of members of Congress have voiced concerns about the lack of fairness in the proceedings against these two men – including the prosecution's efforts to seek out and offer immunity to a habitual Mexican drug smuggler, a sealed indictment of the smuggler's subsequent drug offenses and insufficient proof of whether or not the smuggler was armed. The disturbing details of this case strongly call into question whether justice was served.

Most recently, defense attorneys for the two men have indicated they will seek a new trial based on potentially exculpatory evidence they say was not provided to them in court. Specifically, this evidence includes a Department of Homeland Security memo acknowledging that all nine agents at the scene, including two supervisors, knew about the shooting and failed to report it – information that substantiates the agents' testimony at trial. The failure to disclose this information to the defense suggests a significant violation by the prosecutors in this case.

Mr. Chairman, in light of the most recent developments in this case and the threats against the agents' safety so long as they are incarcerated, **I would be grateful for your assistance in scheduling a hearing on this matter as soon as possible.** Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress